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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub B1*
1. A method of communicating non-video data from a video receiver to an external device, the video receiver adapted to receive a digital video signal and output an analog video signal derived from the digital video signal; the method comprising:
 - providing the non-video data to an OSD generator of the video receiver;
 - formatting the non-video data as OSD data;
 - inserting the OSD data into the analog video signal;
 - providing the external device with an OSD data detector;
 - detecting the OSD data to receive the non-video data.
 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the OSD data is inserted into the analog video signal during non-blanking portions.
 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-video data is control data.
 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-video data is information usually included in a blanking interval of an analog video signal.
 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-video is contained in the digital video signal.
 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-video data is determined by the video receiver.
 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the OSD data is displayable in an overscan region.
 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the video receiver provides a sync signal to the external device.